

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

*How are trees and public health related?
See pages 3 & 4.*

Coordinator's Column

Idaho Statewide Forest Resource Strategy A Framework for Collaborative Management of Idaho's Forests

The 2008 Farm Bill and a “redesign” of State and Private Forestry programs require that each state develops a Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources (SAFR) and accompanying Statewide Forest Resource Strategy (SFRS) across all land ownerships. This is now requisite to receiving federal funding. The primary purpose is development of a plan that will guide State and Private Forestry investments in Idaho—including urban and community forestry—to ensure that federal resources focus on landscape areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes. A parallel purpose is to help all landowners and managers in Idaho better recognize and support opportunities where working together and leveraging limited resources can address multiple critical issues of statewide importance in the areas where doing so will have the greatest impact.

Several issues ago I wrote about the statewide assessment and how it considered issues that threaten certain areas of our forests and as well as areas where forests provide the most benefits. Areas with multiple high priority concerns and potential benefits were designated as Priority Landscape Areas (PLAs) and include urban, rural, and wildland urban-interface (WUI) lands.

Just completed is the companion Idaho Statewide Forest Resource Strategy (SFRS). The SFRS is a long-term, comprehensive, coordinated strategy for investing state, federal, and leveraged partner resources. It addresses the issues and priority landscape areas identified in the statewide assessment. The SFRS is statewide in scope, not a site-specific plan. It includes statewide strategies and strategies for each of the PLAs.

Together, the SAFR and SFRS will help provide focus to landowners, agencies, communities, collaborative groups, and partnership efforts in identifying projects and activities to reduce threats to, and increase the benefits of, Idaho's

continued on page 3



Gene Grey

The Essence of Arbor Days

It is estimated that over 75 Arbor Day celebrations were held last spring in Idaho. The one pictured here was at Payette's Centennial Park with about 40 people braving the cool April weather. Are Arbor Day celebrations worth the time and effort? Consider this poem written by 5th grade student Amber Yokom, shown above reading at the ceremony, and decide for yourself.

*Arbor Day is a day to celebrate and appreciate all that
trees do for us.*

*They give us oxygen, pretty colors in the fall, a climbing or
hiding place, and some even give us flowers.*

*If trees didn't exist, we wouldn't either, so it's important to
take care of our trees and protect them.*

*We should avoid cutting down trees unless it's absolutely
necessary.*

*Trees are homes of many creatures like chipmunks,
squirrels, birds, ants, and sometimes cats.*

*So to protect our lives and the Earth's, we need to recycle,
avoid littering, and not vandalize trees.*

*So remember, plant your tree to make a difference, even if
it's a small one,
and be sure to respect, protect, and care for
Mother Nature,
and possibly more importantly, trees.*

Partnerships Provide Opportunity

By Gerry Bates

In declining economies it takes ingenuity to accomplish tasks necessary to sustain a community forestry program. Here's an example of a partnership between two small Idaho communities that will allow both to conduct a tree inventory that neither could afford on their own.

In 2006, a GIS-based tree inventory and management software program called TreeWorks was purchased by Ketchum and data collection was undertaken by a consulting firm. This revealed an urban forest asset of approximately \$2 million. An accurate tree inventory allows the city to manage the urban forest asset efficiently and professionally; it helps to identify risks and opportunities associated with public trees, generate work orders

for staff, create reports for elected officials and city administration, and provide leverage for grant money procurement. Ketchum has experienced a drastic budget savings over the past four years due in large part to the data provided and efficiencies created by the GIS-based tree inventory and management program.

In October 2008, Ketchum's city arborist was asked to chair the Hailey Tree Committee (HTC) in order to help facilitate the creation of an urban forest management program. The city arborist agreed to the volunteer position with full disclosure to both municipalities.

The HTC has experienced several successes such as a vigorous risk mitigation undertaking, regular Arbor Day celebrations, Tree City USA and TCUSA Growth

Awards and a Community Transportation Enhancement grant of \$30,000 from the Idaho Department of Lands. Urban forest best management practices suggest that asset identification is the next step for continuing success. The HTC requested a budget allocation for a GIS-based tree inventory similar to Ketchum's; however, the economic downturn prohibited the expenditure at this time. A stand-alone tree inventory and management software program and data inventory would cost the City of Hailey approximately \$20,000.

In a creative effort to both accomplish the much-needed tree inventory and save limited municipal dollars, the HTC looked for a solution. Because Ketchum and Hailey are both relatively small communities, an agreement was proposed

to manage Hailey's tree inventory as well as save Ketchum's resources. Under this arrangement, Hailey would purchase an additional inventory license and data collection services and pay the City of Ketchum for half of an annual software support fee and a facilitation and management fee for Ketchum's city arborist's services.

Discussions with Ketchum's elected officials and administrative team starting in January 2009 revealed full support of a cooperative agreement. Similar support was garnered from Hailey officials and administration. This approach allows both communities to complete an accurate inventory and experience the benefits of it while keeping costs within acceptable levels.

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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Nampa's Dog Park a Big Success

Nampa's new, 6-acre dog park has proven to be hugely popular with both dogs and pet owners. The area is complete with fenced separation of large and small dogs, a pond, running water, posted rules and plenty of space. It was further enhanced with about 70 trees

representing a wide variety of species. The trees were planted with the help of a Community Transportation Enhancement grant since the property adjoins a busy avenue. Although shrubs and flowering plants have suffered from what dogs do naturally, and the grass

needs a lot of maintenance, only one tree has been lost. The site was visited in June by the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council as well as sites in Cadwell, Payette and Weiser where CTE and stimulus funds have provided help in planting or caring for community trees.



Trees will soon add summer shade to the popular dog park in Nampa.

James R. Fazio

forestlands. From communities to rural forestlands, focusing work in the highest priority areas allows leveraging of funds and coordination across ownerships as a highly effective way to address the most critical forest resource issues in Idaho at a scale where significant, positive changes can be realized.

The SFRS will be our guide to delivering community forestry assistance in the future. Since the SFRS includes all lands, many of the strategies focus on rural forestlands. The Community Forestry Program's focus will be on those strategies that affect cities throughout the state.

For additional information, both the SAFR and the SFRS can be downloaded at <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/ForestAssist/safr/safr-final.html>. If you would like a hardcopy of the strategy, please contact me by the phone or e-mail address in the masthead on page 2.

— David Stephenson

Community Forestry
Coordinator

More Efforts to Stop Wildfire Loss

As city and country merge, more homes are lost each summer from wildfires. What was once solely a rural problem is now an urban or suburban problem as well. To help promote a "firewise culture," a new website has been launched. It is a cooperative effort between a new non-profit organization, Idaho Firewise, and the state's traditional Keep Idaho Green program. You can visit the new site at www.idahofirewise.org.

Two Pests Plaguing Idaho

The mild, wet spring experienced in Idaho has led to a higher than usual occurrence of sycamore anthracnose. This is a fungal disease that causes emerging leaves to wilt and leaves the tree looking bare. Spring defoliation is usually followed by re-leaving later in the summer. The disease affects both American sycamore and the more common London plane tree and Oriental plane tree. Anthracnose is worse some years than others and is usually not fatal. It is *not* an indication that the tree should be removed. The best treatment is keeping the tree vigorous through watering during dry periods and mulching properly. Chemical treatments are also available and should be done only by qualified applicators.

The other problem that seems to be more prevalent and spreading is the locust borer. As the name implies, this insect (in the larval stage) bores into the heartwood of a tree. The tunneling results in broken and dead limbs, weakened trees, excessive sprout production, and even death of the tree. The best remedy is prevention, again by simply reducing stress through watering and routine care. Chemical treatment is available for this problem, too. For help, contact your county extension agent, a reputable nursery, or qualified arborist.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 23-28

International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show —Chicago, IL. (Visit www.isa-arbor.com/conference/ for conference brochure and registration form or phone (217) 355-9411 for more information).

Sept 26-29

Arborists' Annual Training Conference —Tacoma, WA. (Contact Pacific Northwest International Society of Arboriculture at 1-800-335-4391 or online at info@pnwisa.org).

October 3-6

Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference and Trade Show — Albuquerque, NM. (Visit www.urbanforestry.com / or e-mail UrbanForestry@prodigy.net for more information).

November 9-11

Partners in Urban Forestry Conference — Philadelphia, PA. (Visit <http://www.arborday.org/> and click on conference link under Programs for more information, or phone 1-888-448-7337).

Upcoming Exams for:

Certified Arborist (CA)
Municipal Arborist (MA)
Utility Arborist (UA)
Aerial Lift Specialist (ALS)
Certified Tree Worker (CTW)

September 25 – Pocatello, ID (CA)²

November 19 – Salt Lake City, UT (CA)¹

¹For information or to register, contact: Utah Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (801) 446-8229 or email: Lisa_UCFC@yahoo.com.

²For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org.

A Word About 'Tree tip'

Long-time readers may notice that our Tree tip on page 4 is a re-run. It appeared a decade ago but we are using it again to help emphasize the practical importance of trees in our communities. Not that aesthetics are not important – they are! – but in tough economic times it is important to also consider how trees serve in other ways, too. Public health is one of these. Shade for children is important, as the Tree tip points out. Playgrounds need shade, as do dugouts and benches for ball fields.



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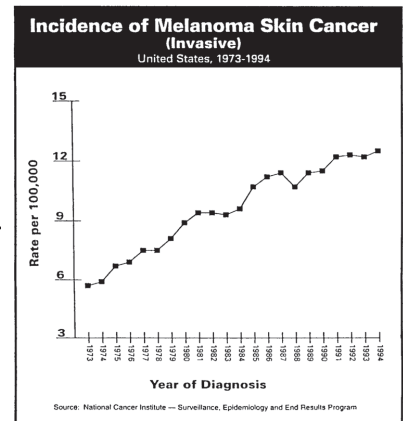
Tree tip

Plant Trees in School Yards and Playgrounds to Prevent Cancer

Andrew Manthe, a California health official, warns that serious skin cancer has doubled since 1973. He blames thinning of the ozone layer in the stratosphere where harmful ultraviolet rays are normally blocked. It is nature's "sunscreen in the sky." He also reports that 90 % of all skin cancer is caused by sunlight and that 80% of a person's sun exposure occurs during childhood — but the damage takes its toll later in life. Help prevent skin cancer by:

- ✓ Strategically planting shade trees to provide shade for kids from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m.
- ✓ Summer shade is more important because more skin is exposed than in winter.
- ✓ Use species with dense foliage such as:
 - Oaks • Catalpa • Maples • Hackberry • Lindens

SOURCE: Adapted from "Planting Trees For The Health Of It" by Jane B. Little, California Trees, Summer 1999.



The annual number of new cases of melanoma in the U.S. has more than doubled since 1973.

SOURCE: NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE - SURVEILLANCE, EPIDEMIOLOGY AND END RESULTS PROGRAM